

FROM:

DATE: 18 MAR 1963

	TO	INITIALS	DATE	SIGNATURE	INFORMATION	COMMENTS	APPROVAL	ACTION	SEE ME	FILE	RETURN	SEE REMARKS BELOW
DIR	2		3/19									
DEP/DIR												
EXEC/DIR	1		19/2									
OPS/OFF												
SA	3											
SA												
CH/AS												
CH/SS												
CH/RS												
CH/PAS												
CH/TPDS												
CH/PD												
CH/CMD												
CH/TISD												
SIO/CIA												
SIO/ARMY												
SIO/NAVY												
SIO/AF												
SEC/AC												

REMARKS:

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RAC No. 031/63

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
17 March 1963**

DAILY REPORT

SUBJECT: US Reconnaissance Activity over Cuba

1. Today's Schedule (17 March 1963)

- a. **Missions:** BRASS KNOB 3496 off at 0529 EST.
Estimated time of return 1350 EST.
BRASS KNOB 3497 scheduled off at
1000 EST. Estimated time of return
1831 EST.
- b. **Purpose:** Mission 3496 will cover the north-
west and south central coasts. Mis-
sion 3497 will cover north coast.
- c. **Weather:** Fair to good over western third and
east central area of island. Poor
over remainder of island. Gradual
improvement over western half to-
morrow.
- d. **IPIR due:** 19 March 1963

2. Yesterday's Activity (16 March 1963)

- a. **Missions:** BRASS KNOB Mission 3494 covered cen-
flown tral and eastern Cuba. BRASS KNOB
3495 covered the northern half of
the island. Pilots estimate 50%
and 40% coverage of scheduled tar-
gets respectively.
- b. **Weather:** Good over western third and eastern
tip of island. Fair to poor over
remainder of island.
- c. **IPIR due:** 18 March 1963
- d. **Reaction:** No significant air defense reaction
to these BRASS KNOB missions was
detected.

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3. Shipping Summary

**a. Soviet Bloc ships confirmed en route to Cuba
1600 EST 16 March:**

Tankers	9
Passenger	2
Dry Cargo	<u>7</u>
Total	18

**b. Soviet Bloc ships in Cuban ports 1600 EST
16 March:**

Tankers	3
Passenger	-
Dry Cargo	<u>22</u>
Total	25

**c. Dry cargo ships now in Cuban ports which were
photographed while inbound to Cuba by low-altitude or
surface cameras: 23**

d. CIA has received photos of 17 of these ships.

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During 9 - 15 March 1963

Targets	Dates							Totals	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Sorties	Days Covered
1. Siguanea Cruise Missile Site								0	0
2. Banes Cruise Missile Site						1		1	1
3. Santa Cruz del Norte Cruise Site	1	1	1		1		1	5	5
4. Camilo Cienfuegos Airfield		2	1	1		1	1	6	5
5. Camaguey Airfield		1						1	1
6. Holguin Airfield		1	1	1	1	1		5	5
7. San Antonio de los Banos Airfield	1	2	2	1	1		2	9	6
8. Mariel Naval Base	2	2	2	2			2	10	5
9. Banes Naval Base						1	1	2	2
10. Cienfuegos Naval Base	1	1	1	1	1		1	6	6
11. Santiago de Cuba Port	1					1		2	2
12. La Isabella Port			1	1	1	1	1	5	5
13. Caibarien Port	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	12	7
14. Cardenas Port		1	1				1	3	3
15. Casilda Port				1	1		1	3	3
16. Matanzas Port	1	1	1		1	1	1	6	6
17. Havana Port	2	3	2	2	1		2	12	6
18. Guantanamo Area						1		1	1
19. Pinar del Rio Military Camp			1					1	1
20. Artemisa Military Camp		2		1	1		2	6	4
21. Holguin Military Camp	1	1	1	1				4	4
22. Remedios Military Camp	1	2	1		1	1		6	5
23. Santiago de los Vegas Military Camp	1	2	1	1			2	7	5
24. Lourdes (Torrens) Army Camp	2	1	1	1			2	7	5
25. Limonar Military Camp			1					1	1
26. Camaguey Military Camp		1			1			2	2
28. Managua Staging Area	2	3	2	1			1	9	5
29. Bejucal Staging Area	3	2	2	1			2	10	5
30. Manicaragua Staging Area			1					1	1

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During the period 9-15 March 1963, 89 percent of the total land area of Cuba was covered by photography with 25 percent or less cloud cover. This included oblique photography up to 70 miles on either side of the flight line.

During 9 - 15 March 1963, 18 BRASS KNOB missions were flown.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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The following is the status of "Special Interest" ships in the Cuban trade:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>En route to Cuba:</u>		
Baltika	Passenger	ETA Havana 21 March 0300Z
Bajkal	Passenger	15 March passed Danish Straits ETA Havana 29-30 March (Estimate)
<u>In Cuban ports:</u>		
Orenburg	Cargo (Omsk class)	14 March in Manzanillo
Krasnograd	Cargo	15 March in Nuevitas. ETD 16 March
Karachaevo- Cherkassiya	Cargo (Krasnograd class)	15 March probably still in Isabela de Sagua
<u>En route to USSR:</u>		
Admiral Nakhimov	Passenger	Departed Havana at 1700 EST on 15 March. (Sighting)

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